

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

TOWN HALL
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AMHERST, MA 01002

SELECT BOARD
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August 13, 2009

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
26 Central Street, Suite 34
West Springfield, MA 01089-2787

Dear Mr. Brennan,

On behalf of the Amherst Select Board, I implore the MPO to change the TIP funding category for the Route 116 - Atkins Corner Reconstruction, State project #604043.

The planning for this project has been in the works for many years. It has been through countless rounds of design and approvals. It involves land swap and compensation agreements with more than half a dozen property owners. It has garnered overwhelming support from multiple Town Meeting votes. An intricate web of complex collaboration has finally and painstakingly brought this project to the cusp of construction, and it is now threatened by an unreliable TIP funding classification.

Allowing this project to be compromised at this point for this reason would be an accidental indulgence of the public's cynical stereotypes about bureaucracy. Please don't let this happen.

This reconstruction is vital for safety and economic development, and will benefit the Five College community and beyond. It is ready to go. Please don't let it be jeopardized by making the final piece of funding uncertain. Please amend the FY2010 TIP to include this under Part 1A, Federal Aid Target Projects with STP funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and for all the work you do for our region.

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. O'Keeffe
Chair, Amherst Select Board

cc: U.S. Representative John Olver
Senator Stan Rosenberg
Representative Ellen Story

